

46BC

Rome Cal.

In Rome, the lunisolar calendar then in use in Rome had been subject to political manipulation, and by Caesar's time it had accumulated an error of about 80 days ($365 + 80 = 445$). An Alexandrian astronomer named SOSIGENES furnished Caesar with an explanation of the solar cal. used in Egypt and in 46BC Caesar ordered its adoption as the official Cal of Rome. Instead of the unchanging

365-day year, however, the Julian Calendar took cognizance of the additional fraction and, assuming that this fraction was 0.25 day provided for the regular intercalation of one day every 4 years.

46 BC

After 153 BC more tampering with the calendar (lengthening), again the dates were askew. To reset the calendar to January 1, Julius Caesar had to let the year drag on for 445 days earning it (46 BC) the historical sobriquet "Year of Confusion." Caesar's new calendar was eponymously called the Julian Calendar.

46 BC

Was 445 days long.

Caesar called it *ULTIMUS ANNUS*

CONFUSIONIS, the "last year of confusion."

Extra day caused disruptions throughout the empire in everything from contracts to shipping schedules.

46BC

Caesar decreed in 46BC that the civil year be regulated entirely by the sun. He fixed the mean length of the year at $365 \frac{1}{4}$ days and arranged that every 4th yr should have 366 days. The year 46BC, instead of having 355 days, had 445 days to reconcile it with the astronomical yr. Caesar arranged that the

months should have 30 & 31 days
alternately with 29 (or 30) for February,
but his successor Augustus to gratify
his vanity named the 8th month
after himself

46 BC

Duncan: Cal

Caesar ordered the adoption of
the Sosigenes (Egyptian Cal) and every
4th yr was to have a day added

46 BC

Duncan: Cal

Roman Year of Confusion
445 days.

46BC

Duncan; Cal

A.U.C. 708

Caesar also moved the first of the year from March to January, nearer the winter solstice - an earlier Calendar reform that had not always been adhered to

He then reorganized the lengths of the months to add in the 10 days required to bring the year from

355 day to 365 day, arranging them
to create a calendar of 12 alternating
30- and 31-day months, with
February having 29 days normally
& 30 days in leap year.

He left the old cal. largely intact
in terms of festivals and holidays. He
also retained the old system of numbering
days according to kalends, nones & ides.

The Senate changed Quintilis to Julius

46 BC

Duncan: Cal

Year 17 Confusion
had 445 Day long.

46BC

Duncan: Cal

Caesar called this year

"ULTIMUS ANNUS CONFUSIONIS"

"The last year of Confusion"

The extra day (to 445 days in yr 46BC)
caused disruptions throughout the
Roman world in everything from
contracts to shipping schedules.
The governor in Gaul insisted that
taxes be assessed for Caesar's
two extra months.

Cicero in Rome complained that Caesar was not content with ruling the earth but also strove to rule the stars.

yet most Romans were relieved to have a stable and objective Calendar.